THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Subsidiary company of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has been formed and registered as Guru Gobind Singh Refineries Limited (GGSRL) on December 13, 2000 to execute the refinery project along with associated facilities at Bathinda in Punjab. 806 hectares of land has been acquired and boundary wall constructed. Various civil jobs at the refinery complex are under progress.

Location of single point mooring and crude oil terminal at Mundra have been identified. Route for crude oil pipeline (1011 kilometers) from Mundra to Bathinda has been finalised. Acquisition of right of user in land work for the crude oil pipeline in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana has commenced.

An expenditure of Rs. 136.20 crore has been incurred on the project upto 22.11.2001. The project is expected to be completed by the year 2005.

Loan Facility to Women Entrepreneurs

*124. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase loan facility to the women entrepreneurs; and

(b) if so, the detials thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Public Sector banks have been advised to earmark at least 2 per cent of their net bank credit for women and raise it to 5 per cent in 3 years time. The target is required to be achieved by end March 2004.

(b) Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Banking Division have after a series of consultations and discussion with various

Ministries/Departments, banks, financial institutions, NGOs and other agencies, prepared a Report on "Strengthening of Credit Delivery to Women particularly in Tiny and SSI Sector". The Report contains a 14 Point Action Plan for implementation by public sector banks. The salient features of the Plan include, *inter alia*, redefining of Banks' Policies/Long Term Plans, setting up women cells, simplification of procedural formalities; orientation of bank officers/ staff on credit requirements of women; publicity campaign for creating awareness about credit facilities; entrepreneurship development programmes/training facilities for women; specialized branches for women; data collection and involving NGOs/SHGs/ Women's Cooperatives.

The Report was sent to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for implementation of the 14 Point Action Plan by the Public Sector Banks and monitoring of the action taken. RBI have, accordingly, issued necessary instructions to all the public sector banks. The implementation of the 14 Point Action Plan by banks is expected to enhance credit flow to women.

Decline in GDP

*127. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there has been continuous decline in the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that non-investment of capital is the main reason for decline in the Gross Domestic Product;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that purchasing power in markets is going down due to decline in employment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The growth in gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost (at constant prices) was 4.8% in 1997-98. It went up to 6.6 in

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.